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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**26 MARCH 2019**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Martinez – Cyber Attack at Contra Costa Elections Department Started with an Email**

(U) DHS and the FBI are investigating after a hacker attempted to access the election internet system for the Contra Costa County Clerk and Recorder's office. Clerk and Recorder Joseph Canciamilla said the spear phishing attack happened last week. A hacker sent an email to an election staffer disguised as a contact the employee had emailed in the past. Canciamilla said he reported the attack to the California Secretary of State's office and then later elevated to federal authorities. Officials determined that the attack fit the pattern of previous overseas attacks, and stressed that the attack did not attempt to access any actual election information.

SOURCE: 25 March 2019, [KPIX 5](#)

(U) Oakland – Alleged Leader of Drug Ring Sentenced to Federal Prison

(U) A man described by federal authorities as a shrewd, well-organized drug kingpin has been sentenced to 20-years in federal prison. Prosecutors say Carlos "Green Eyes" Hernandez, 52, ran a large-scale drug trafficking operation with supply and distribution channels extending throughout Southern California, the Central Valley and the Bay Area. He was the lead defendant in a 2015 conspiracy case with 13 defendants. The investigation, led by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Concord police department, led to the recovery of dozens of pounds of cocaine and methamphetamine, about 10 pounds of heroin, a dozen firearms and \$1.2 million in cash, and other assets.

SOURCE: 25 March 2019, [East Bay Times](#)

(U) Valley Springs – 463 Plants and 174 Pounds of Processed Marijuana Seized

(U) One person was arrested after Calaveras County sheriff's deputies seized more than 460 marijuana plants from a Valley Springs home. The Calaveras County Sheriff's Office Marijuana Enforcement Team served a search warrant last week. Investigators found an area inside the home that had been converted for the purpose of cannabis cultivation, a large green house and a butane honey oil conversion lab.

SOURCE: 25 March 2019, [KCRA 3](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Arizona – CBP Officers Seize \$3.1M Worth of Illicit Drugs**

(U) Tucson – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Field Operations officers at the Port of Nogales seized nearly 92-pounds of heroin worth \$2.5 million, 17-pounds of cocaine valued at \$383,000, 76-pounds of methamphetamine worth \$227,500, and 3-pounds of fentanyl valued at \$41,000 over the weekend from three separate drug seizure incidents.

SOURCE: 25 March 2019, [CBP Press Release](#)

(U) Texas – Fifteen Chinese Nationals Apprehended Attempting Illegal Entry

(U) Falfurrias – US Border Patrol working at the Falfurrias checkpoint stopped a smuggling attempt of 15 Chinese nationals, according to an agency news release. Agents referred a tractor trailer to a secondary inspection area after a Border Patrol K-9 alerted agents to the cargo, the release stated. While searching

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the vehicle, agents found the 15 immigrants hidden among the cargo. The driver was arrested, and the immigrants are being processed.

SOURCE: 25 March 2019, [The Monitor](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) Virginia – USCG Cutter Interdicts \$240M Worth of Cocaine during Patrol**

(U) Portsmouth – The crew of US Coast Guard Cutter Tampa returned to Portsmouth yesterday following a successful 85-day counter-narcotics patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. During their patrol off the coasts of Central and South America, Tampa's crew successfully interdicted approximately 18,000 pounds of cocaine worth an estimated value of \$240 million. The Coast Guard increased US and allied presence in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Basin in recent months. Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Dependable and Venturous worked with multiple interagency partners during the patrol and were able to prevent a combined total of nearly \$380 million in cocaine from reaching the US.

SOURCE: 25 March 2019, [USCG News Release](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Democratic Republic of Congo – More Than 1,000 Ebola Cases Reported in Outbreak**

(U) North Kivu – The deadly Ebola outbreak has surpassed 1,000 cases, according to the country's health ministry. The number of confirmed cases stands at 1,009, of which 944 are confirmed and 65 probable, in an outbreak that started in August 2018. The death toll stands at 629, with 564 confirmed from Ebola and 65 probable. It is the second-deadliest and second-largest Ebola outbreak in history, topped only by a West Africa outbreak in 2014, when the disease killed more than 11,000 people, according to the World Health Organization.

SOURCE: 25 March 2019, [CNN](#)

(U) Germany – Officials Evacuate Buildings in at Least Six Cities

(U) Mainz – Police in Germany evacuated several buildings in six cities after bomb threats were emailed to officials. After searching the buildings, police in at least four of the cities said they found nothing suspicious. In Göttingen, officials searched the building and reopened the streets in the area around two hours later, but the town hall remained closed for the day. The threat in the southwestern city of Kaiserslautern led to the evacuation of a 21-story high rise where more than 1,000 people work. In Augsburg, the town hall and a nearby administration building where around 500 people work were both evacuated. In Neunkirchen, also in the southwest of Germany, police evacuated several buildings belonging to the town hall complex but found nothing in each case after searching the buildings. Police are investigating the email in coordination with the other cities that received threats.

SOURCE: 26 March 2019, [NBC News](#)

(U) Jordan – Suspects Appear in Court for August 2018 Attack

(U) Amman – Fourteen suspected militants have appeared in a Jordanian court to face charges linked to an attack on security forces last August. They were also charged with conspiring to commit terrorism and manufacturing explosives. Judge Mohammad Afif announced the charges yesterday and scheduled a hearing for next week. If convicted, some defendants could face the death penalty. In August 2018, assailants bombed a police van that was guarding a music festival in the predominantly Christian town of Fuheis, near the capital, Amman. The blast killed a police officer and prompted a manhunt that led to the deaths of five security officers and three suspected militants.

SOURCE: 25 March 2019, [Associated Press](#)

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) Spain – Foreign State Suspected in Virus Attacks of Defense Intranet**

(U) Madrid – Officials suspect a foreign nation-state is behind the cyberattack on Spain's Defense Ministry's intranet. A computer virus infected the intranet this month with the aim of stealing high tech military secrets. The virus was apparently introduced via email and was first spotted at the beginning of March. However, it could have gone undetected for months in an intranet with more than 50,000 users. Although the network does not carry classified information, officials were concerned about a wider infection to other networks with the purpose of accessing information related to secret military technology. The investigation had yet to determine who was responsible for the cyberattack, but sources say it was too technically complex to be done by standard hackers.

SOURCE: 26 March 2019, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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